THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 80, Number 30 | Fretting since 1911. | Monday, November 5, 1990

'Funeral' remembers women killed by spouses

by Catherine Cooper

Thirty-one people have died due to conjugal violence in Montréal so far this year. A mock funeral procession in their memory marched through Old Montréal last Friday evening.

White banners bore the names of those killed. Two coffins were laid on the steps of Palais de Justice and covered with flowers to recall the women and children.

Carmen Doucet of La Maison du Réconfort said the purpose of the procession was to bring public attention to the reality of conjugal violence.

Denise Campeau, coordinator at the shelter and regional delegate for Montréal area shelters, said the idea for the procession came as a result of the alarming number of deaths in August and September.

"Conjugal violence is nothing new," said Campeau. "Women have always been victums to conjugal violence but this year there were a lot of deaths - ten in August alone."

Of the women killed, 13 had left their spouses prior to their deaths. According to the organizers, the judical system is not effective in dealing with domestic violence.

In many situations, the men are legally charged yet their trials are delayed six to eight months. In the meantime, the accused returns to his wife, family or girlfriend and commits murder.

According to Campeau, the objectives of the procession were threefold: to inform people of the seriousness of conjugal violence, to demand changes in the judicial system which would effectively prevent more murders, and to inform women of the real dangers they face.

The demonstrators would like to see changes in the judicial system like detaining men charged with domestic crimes. They also want to see more efficiency in how conjugal violent cases are handled, and systems to provide emotional and moral support during court proceedings.

When murder occurs outside the home, it is regarded by the community as a serious offence. Yet when women die from domestic violence, they become mere statistics and the spouse becomes the centre of media attention and legal conflict, said Campeau. People forget that a woman or child has been murdered.

"The procession is to commemorate these women – those that died unnecessarily and who have symbolized, for all women, our right to life."

Fee revamp may penalize part timers

by Robin LeBaron

Students' Society president Kate Morisset has proposed full time and part time students pay the same fees for student services, including on–campus health care and athletics.

A subcommittee was established last year to investigate alternatives to the current, complicated nine–tier student service fee system. In a report released last week, the subcommittee suggested a system with two levels, in which full and part time students would pay different rates.

Discussion of this idea was cut short by Morisset, who proposed closer examination of the merits of a flat rate for all students.

The scheme would mean fee increases of between 100 and 400 per cent for part time students, and additional–session graduate students might have to pay fees that are now optional.

According to Bob Collins, graduate rep to the committee that coordinates student services, a two–tier system is a reasonable compromise between simplicity and fairness.

Full time students then would pay about $72 per semester, and part time students would pay just over $29, a slight decrease in fees for full time students. But with a flat rate, all students would pay around $65.

Morisset's proposal is based on the assumption that the use of student services is similar throughout the student body. Thus, part time students are assumed to use student services as much, if not more, than full time students.

But Collins said this assumption is false. Part time students, he claims, are part time students because they have to work and support themselves, and thus have no extra time to use student facilities.

"Kate seems to be extrapolating from her personal experience when she says most students have time to wander around campus using student facilities," he says.

At present, there is no adequate data on the usage of student services by different groups within the McGill student body.

In the end, the meeting last week did not ratify the two-tier proposal, and is now committed to examining the flat rate system. Its next meeting is scheduled for November 29.

Student service fees contribute to the operation of health, student aid, advising, housing, and counselling services, mostly in the Powell building, as well as athletics.

Increasing service fees has been a means employed by many Québec universities to increase student–generated funding without violating the province's tuition fee guidelines. Student activists have called it a 'hidden' way of hiking tuition fees.

Momentum grows against apartheid

by Alex Poulis

The lawyer who defended the Sharpeville Six spoke of the growing confidence of the South African resistence at McGill last Wednesday evening.

Prakash Diar prevented the execution of six people convicted of murdering a township deputy mayor in 1984. His lecture focused on current reforms and the response coming out of the black communities, including the Zulu fighting in the Natal province.

"What's been happening during the last 12 to 18 months is that there's been a campaign of defiance. The momentum's really grown to the point where people are defying all apartheid laws," said Diar.

For example, black patients have been showing up at white hospitals, or boarding white buses – both illegal under the Separate Amenities Act.

"The struggle has now become so sophisticated that if the police arrest one, then you will have ten others to replace him or her," he said.

This was not the case in the early 50s or 60s, he said.

Diar had earlier referred to the trial of the Sharpeville Six as a "trial illustrative of how justice – or injustice – operates in South Africa."

In September 1984 a public demonstration in the black township of Sharpville was organized to protest the third rent increase of the year.

The protestors passed the house of town councillor Sam Dlamini who fired shots into the crowd. Dlamini was mobbed, rendered unconscious, and burned to death.

Six people were arrested in connection with the death during the next seven months. They were convicted of murder and sentenced to death.

Diar emphasized the dubious nature of the evidence used to convict the six. The case of the prosecution rested largely on the highly inconclusive testimony of a single witness.

When both the court case and the appeal resulted in death sentences for all six, Diar took the case beyond the courts to President Botha and to the heads of state and leaders of political parties in the West.

Finally, following a difficult struggle, the Six were reprieved and given long jail sentences instead.

"A good example where people played a very meaningful role is in the Sharpeville Six case, where peoples' lives were saved," he said.

The people playing the role were members of the United Nations Security Council, members of the European Commonwealth, and others who put pressure on the South African government.

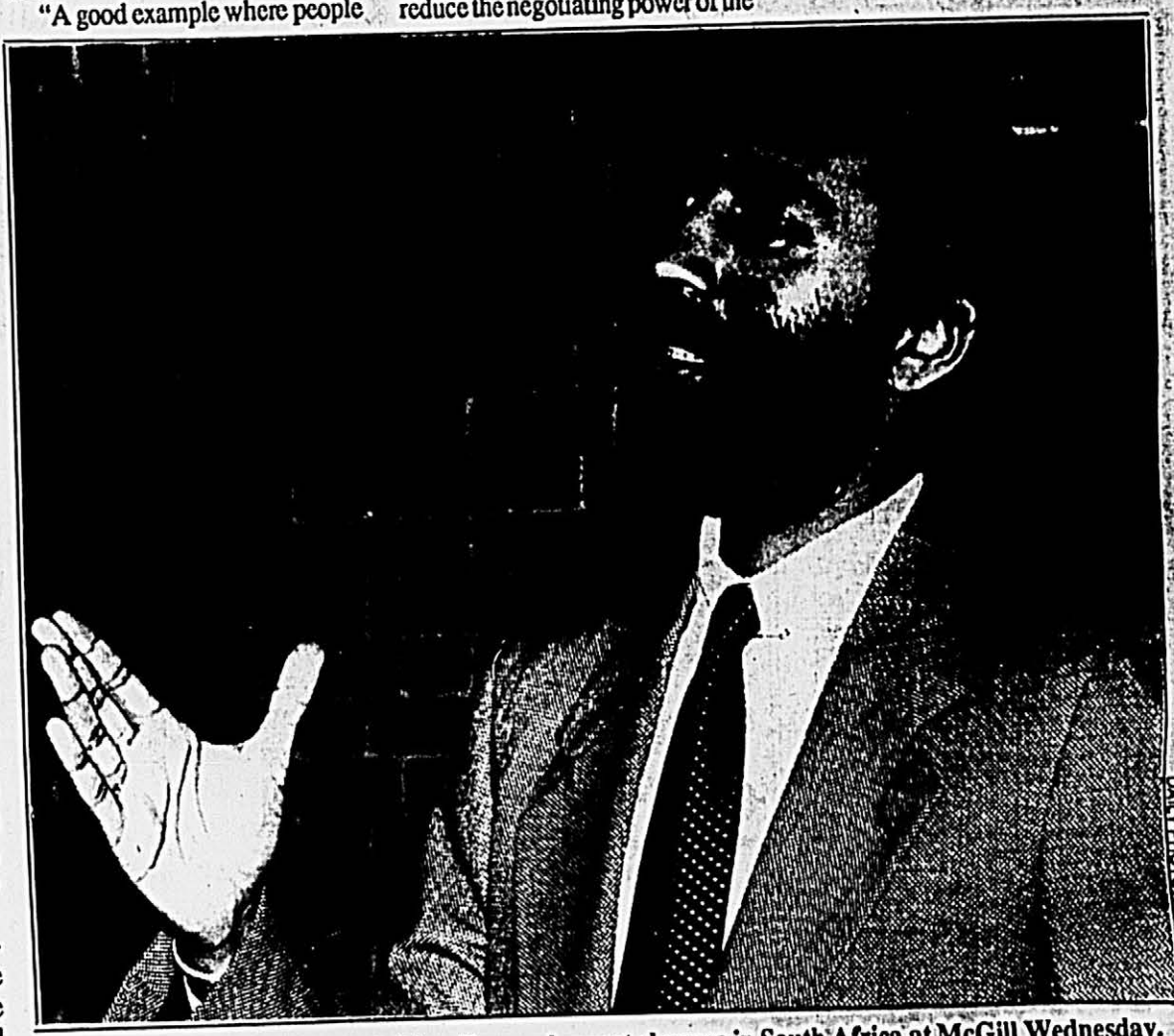
During question period, an audience member asked Diar about Winnie Mandela, currently on trial for the murder of a 14-year-old male by one of her bodyguards at the beginning of 1989.

He dismissed the charges as an effort to discredit the Mandelas and reduce the negotiating power of the African National Congress internationally.

Diar is the author of *The Sharpeville Six*, published last Monday by McClelland and Stewart.

Diar is spending a year at the University of Ottawa as a Fellow of the law faculty's human rights commission. He went to South Africa last March, and hopes to go again next month when his book is published, to "test the waters."

The lecture was organized as part of Fiesta 90: A Festival of Nations, sponsored by the Programming Network in co-operation with the Multicultural Society.



DAILY PHOTO: NADINE LEE

Sharpeville Six lawyer Prakash Diar discussed recent changes in South Africa at McGill Wednesday.

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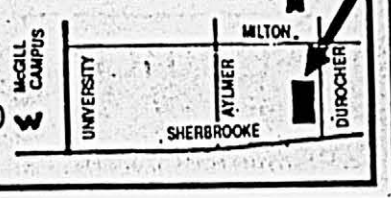

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

MBA
Information Session

Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza
420 Sherbrooke Street
Montreal
Tuesday November 6, 1990
Governor II Room
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Speaker: Catherine Vertesi
Assistant Dean, Faculty of Commerce
Director, Study Abroad & Exchange Programs

There will be a formal presentation followed by a question and answer period.

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EVENTS

Vegetarian Festival presented by META. Food, raffle and info. (Includes vegetarian "Jeopardy" at 12h. Part 3 of David Suzuki's "A Planet for the Taking" at 13h.) Student Union 107/8, 3480 McTavish St. 11h-15h.

The Yellow Door is having a discussion/support group for McGill students from dysfunctional families (e.g. alcoholism, abuse). The Yellow Door, 3625 Aylmer. Info: 398-6244 (or 398-6243). 14h30.

Israel Public Affairs Committee is having meeting at Hillel House 3460 Stanley. Info: Steven 845-9171. 16h.

Students Taking Action to Network Against Discrimination (S.T.A.N.D.) is having a meeting. Hillel House 3460 Stanley. Info: Howard 845-9171. 17h.

All individuals and organizations interested in seeing a referendum at McGill on Affirmative Action, there is a meeting in the Women's Union. Student Union 3480 McTavish St. 4th floor. 16h.

McGill Black Students' Network hosts filmmaker Reece Auguiste and his prize-winning film "Twilight City". Also showing, "Handsworth's Songs" by John Akomera. Both films come out of London's Black Audio Film Collective and examine present-day Britain. Frank Dawson Adams 3450 University St. (best to enter from campus). $2.00. 19h.

Five student films. The Film Society is showing them for FREE at The Alley. 20h.

"Building the Palestinian State" is a Palestine Solidarity Committee lecture. With Dr. Rita Giagaman and Khail Mahsi of Bir Zeit University, and Dr. Mustafa Burghoutti of Maqassed Hospital. Leacock 232. 19h30.

Thomson House Film—"War Of The Roses" starring Kathleen Turner, Danny DeVito and Michael Douglas. Post Graduates, members and guests only. 3650 McTavish.

Free food, cash prizes, clean karma. Blood donor clinic at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital, Auditorium Pavillion "A" 3755 Côté Ste. Catherine. Info: 340-8216. 10h-16h30.

"Disease Patterns in Women in Late Victorian Canada" is a history seminar by Waterloo University's Wendy Mitchinson. With a title like that—it has to be good. Leacock 232. 15h.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

On Tuesday, November 6th, the premiere screening of Songolo: Voices of Change will take place at McGill's Leacock building, room 132, exploring the relationship between culture and resistance through the eyes of two South African artists.

The evening will kick off at 20h pm with a presentation by Marianne Kaplan, the producer of the film and close with a discussion of the film led by Kaplan. Admission is $5 for students and $20 for supporters. Proceeds go to the Nelson Mandela Fund. Tickets available at McGill Film Society, Union room 432, 398-6825.

DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS

'EVERYBODY HATES EVERYBODY...'

Three weeks ago, in our first column, we wrote about a homophobic t-shirt hanging in the window of a store on St. Catherine. Since then (after copies of the article were taped to the display window) the shirt has been removed.

However, the mindless junk has only slinked further back in the store—siding up with the nazi and white power doo-dads. Apparently profit has blurred the vision of the owner of **Le Rock Souvenirs** (on St. Cath, near St. Laurent). When confronted with the issue of hate promotion, he shrugged and replied, "Everybody hates everybody. Everyone has their own opinion."

Yeah, but you're selling merchandise that symbolizes hatred for all that is not white, we told the owner, a man of Indian descent. Can't you see that they hate you? Doesn't it bother you in the least to give these people an outlet to display their prejudice?

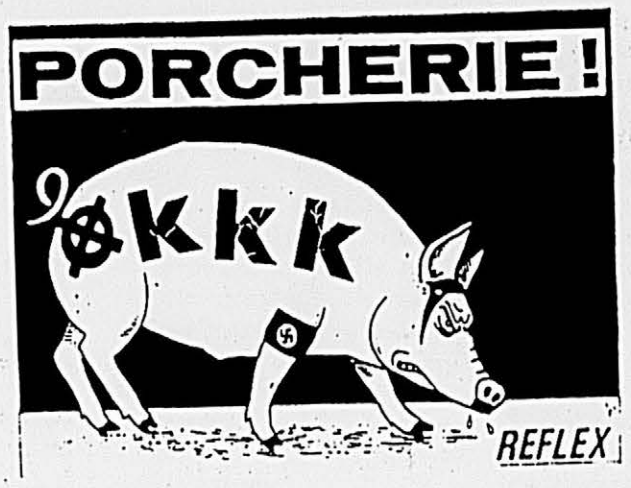
"Let me tell you something," replied the man. "Do you think your mother loves you?" (He was given the affirmative.) "You're wrong. The only thing anyone loves is money. Nobody loves anyone when it comes to money..."

WRINKLED SHEETS LOOK LOVELY IN COLOUR

Alain Dufour, the president of **LAM (Ligue Anti-Fasciste Mondiale)**, is being kept from his work by wise-ass racist jerks. He has been charged with assault by a nazi skinhead in Vancouver, and Michel Larocque (head of the Ku Klux Klan in Montréal) has also claimed that Alain and others jumped him. But Dufour has managed to keep pace, between preliminary hearings.

Last week, *Le Journal de Montréal* ran a story about Larocque, with their usual flair. A huge colour picture of Larocque decked out in 'sheets' adorned the front page and a page inside. They also ran a sidebar about Dufour and LAM, which contained several erroneous statements.

Concerning the incident outside the Spectrum at last October's Bérurier Noir concert, Serge Labrosse, the author of the two-page spread in Oct. 28th's *Journal* stated that, "Members of LAM moved towards the 'skins' as if to chase them or antagonize them, as if they had been preparing for this moment for a long time".



In fact, as Dufour points out in a letter sent out to media in Montréal, the organizer of the concert invited members of LAM, about a dozen or so, to provide the security for the show at the Spectrum, as well as subsequent performances in Trois-Rivières and Québec.

During the early part of the show, approximately thirty nazi skins tried to jump the line-up outside the hall. LAM members, in the lobby at the time, confronted the young boneheads and chased them off. A bystander caught the incident on a camcorder.

OVERHEARD AND UNDERSTOOD (?)

• "My health is good, and my toes are their normal size ..." A woman getting on the 55 outside Hôtel Dieu on St. Urbain.

Disruptive Elements might not be as exciting as The Dating Column in The Gazette, *but we could use a hand gathering information. Thanks to the good folks at Dans La Rue, Hillel, and to Professor Graham Darling for straightening us out on a couple of issues. Thanks also to the people at LAM fortheir contribution. Contrary to popular belief (from which the nickname 'LAME' derives), LAM's main objective is the distribution of information, the 'demystification' of racist ideology, and peace.*

DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS
c/o The McGill Daily
3480 McTavish, room B-03
H3A 1X9

danny clarke and kenneth king

Omran sends medical aid to his homeland

by Muna Nabhan

Edmond Omran is a Palestinian-Canadian who wanted to do something concrete for Palestinians and did. In 1983 he founded an organization in Montreal called Medical Aid for Palestine.

Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP)'s aim is to send money for medication to the occupied territories and to encourage Canadian groups to engage in the development of the region.

It is a non-profit organization recognized by Canada as a registered charity. It supports the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, a local equivalent to the Red Cross.

Omran, 44, was born in Jaffa, now in Israel, and grew up in Amman, Jordan, to which his family fled after being forced to leave Palestine by the Israelis in 1948. The Palestinians refer to this time as *al-musiba*, the catastrophe.

Omran left Amman in 1967 to study political science in Grenoble, France. A year later, he followed his family to Canada.

Omran quickly adapted to the Canadian student culture of the sixties, including letting his hair grow, an extremely unusual thing for an Arab to do.

Omran studied at the University of Toronto and after graduating he worked for many years for the PLO. Devotion to the Palestinian cause is of great importance to him.

"I believe it's the duty of every Palestinian to work for his people in any capacity he can," he said.

For two years Omran was the assistant director of the PLO in Brussels, Belgium. When he returned to Canada in 1980 he worked for the group's Montreal office. Then he felt it was time for a change.

"There came a time when just informing the people about the Palestinian question was not enough. I wanted to do something more concrete for the Palestinian people themselves," he said.

Running Medical Aid for Palestine (MAP) has shifted his work from an exclusively political angle to a more humanitarian one. Omran is proud of the achievements MAP has made possible.

"In the beginning it was difficult to convince Canadians of our needs.They used to have this stereotyped picture of us. Being a Palestinian automatically was associated with being a terrorist. Now many groups support us," he said.

Omran spends much of his time fundraising, contacting governmental institutions or groups in his little office on Carré St-Louis. MAP also organizes events, such as the benefit banquet to be held next month.

Omran says he believes the Intifada, the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, has partly been the cause for a change in the Western attitude towards Palestinian homeland issues.

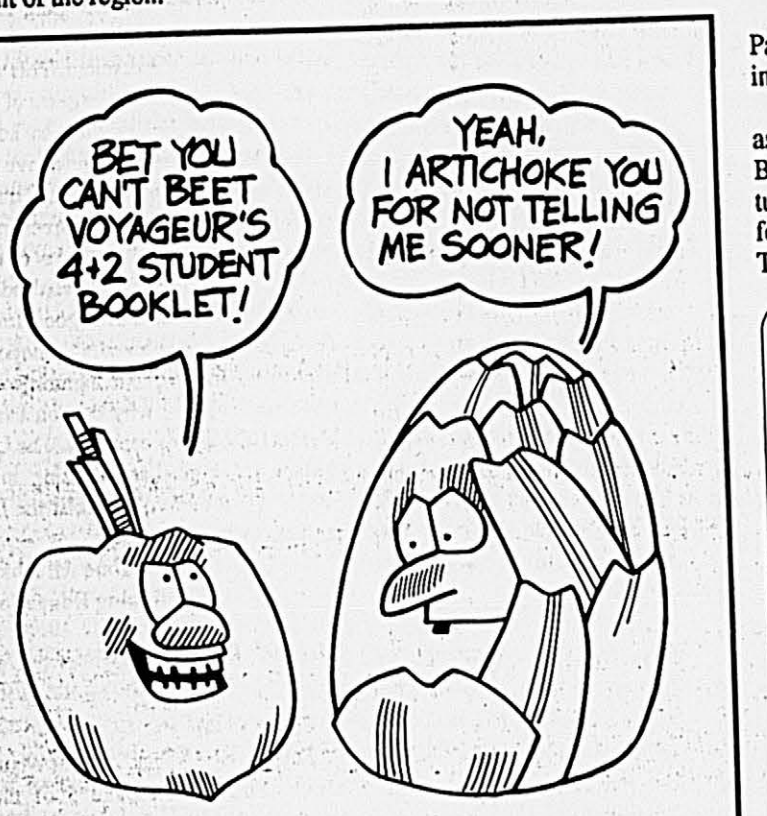
"TV is an important factor in shaping the mind and the opinion of the people in the West. After constantly seeing for so many months soldiers shooting at unarmed youths, wounding them, sometimes even killing them, you start to ask yourself, 'Who's the victim and who's the aggressor here?'" he said.

Like many Palestinians, Omran hopes for a sovereign state. "The only practical solution for the problem is the withdrawal of the Israelis from the occupied territories, established in 1967, and the creation of a Palestinian state to which all the Palestinian refugees can come back to: those who live in camps in Lebanon, in Syria, in Jordan and elsewhere," he said.

In 1974 Omran visited Jaffa, his hometown, which he left at age two. "My mother accompanied me to Jaffa. She took me around and showed me where my father's restaurant had been and the house we had lived in. I was born at home. It was a strange feeling to look up and see somebody's clothes hung up to dry on the balcony. I tried to imagine who lived there now, in the place where I practically came to life," he said.

Omran wishes to return to Jaffa again. But he says he is worried about reprisals because of his work in the past for the PLO, despite feeling protected by his Canadian citizenship. If a sovereign Palestine ever becomes reality, Omran wants Palestinian citizenship, although he might not choose to live there.

"I want to have my rights granted to me. To return to the place I was born in."



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THE MCGILL DAILY

"I saw you standin' there, you saw me standin' here
we saw each other standin' here and there"
-Déja Voodoo

COMMENT

Mixing pop and politics

The news relayed by Friday's *Globe and Mail* that France now has a minister of rock music came as a big surprise to those of us who have not "kept up with the remarkable intellectual currents in that country."

Sure, we get the theory in our libraries and fashionable bookstores, but who knew Jean–François Lyotard was bopping through the annals of intellectual history to the tune of "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"?

But France *does* have a monsieur le Ministre de rock and roll, in the person of Bruno Lion, and it's time Canada moved boldly forward into the nineties, and got one too.

The theory behind the position in France is that popular music is often a pretty good forcast of future social and political changes (no kidding - just think of the connection between part-singing and the political economy of mid–16th century Sweden).

For instance, the strong vegetarian stance taken by kd lang has been an obvious precursor of Gorbachev's agricultural reforms. And more locally, the migration of Canadian musicians such as Joni Mitchell and Neil Young to the States was a clear indication of the Free Trade frenzy to come. If we'd only had a ministre de rock and roll *then*. . .

The ministre would keep in touch with popular music, figure out what's gonna happen, while also nourishing and encouraging struggling musicians, in hopes of promoting positive social change. Honest, it's not as Orwellian as it sounds.

After all, think of all the social scourges that could be eradicated if we just had a cultural police squad to keep everyone on the up and up. Loverboy wouldn't make it past the random road checks. And Anne Murray? She'd be on the next plane to Siberia, her sensitive hands clad in a furry polar–bear muff. And we'd all sleep easier.

Perhaps the Ontario Provincial Police have already caught on (they're closer to the *Globe*'s head offices, after all). Why else would they have busted one London bookstore manager for vending 2 Live Crew albums last month?

And opening this position would also create jobs. Just look at France - Bruno Lion has a job today he didn't have last week. Not to mention all the staff he's going to need, to listen to all that rock and roll and figure out what's worth nourishing and encouraging.

We have thought through the proposition, and have decided there's no lack of suitable candidates. Joey Shithead, of Vancouver punk outfit DOA, comes to mind, but he's busy promiting the Terry Jacks comeback tour/environmental awareness gig, so he's out. We've settled on co–ministers: Gerard van Herk, and Tony Dewald, of the late, great Montréal sludgeabilly band Déja Voodoo.

Since van Herk and Dewald have retired from active musical service, there's little danger of conflict of interest. But just to make sure, we'll put their label, Og Records, in blind trust for the duration of their term. And we're sure that with their terse and nearly–incomprehensible lyrical style, they'll at least confuse their fellow cabinet ministers, which couldn't help but improve the current political scene.

Dan Robins
Carl Wilson
Heather MacKay

LETTERS

"No one ever said we were sexist"

To the Daily:

With much attention being attributed to the issue of the Walk-Safe Network's SSMU club status, many unofficial letters have been written by Fraternity members expressing their opinions with regards to the recent loss of club status by the Inter-Fraternity Council.

Unfortunately, these letters did not express the actual reasons for the Judicial board's decision. The Judicial Board indicated that "...it is clear from the Inter-Fraternity Council's constitution that the I.F.C. is not open to all McGill students." There was never any mention of the I.F.C. being sexist because the Councilis composed of both women and men.

John Hiscox
Liason Officer
Inter-Fraternity Council

Why compost?

To the Daily:

We take great exception to the editorial which appeared in the Environment issue on Thursday October 25th. Its tone was pompous and condescending, the arguments muddled and syllogistic.

The trend towards 'Green Consumerism' may be an exploitable phenomenon for certain opportunistic entrepreneurs, but the fact remains that the demand for less ecologically harmful products sends a message through the channels of our "consumer-industrial complex," and it plays an important role in effecting change within the parameters of our "political traditions."

No one is naive enough to believe that we can shop our way to health, but the choice to support benign products signifies a personalisation of the issue: that is what prompts productive discussion, not what negates it. The "self-centred consumeristic eithe" of the encouraging the companies which supply our material needs within our economy to alter their chemical or ethical processes, is consistent with action on a larger scale. And it speaks loudly to a certain serious offenders. Is that not, after all, the philosophy behind the boycotts the Daily promoted in their 'disorientation manual' not so long ago?

True, the prices of many green products are presently discriminatory, but to suggest that this will deepen class divisions and increase economic disparity internationally is unfounded and irresponsible. Behold supply and demand: natural soaps will sell for less than "ZEST" if everyone does his or her own little bit, something you evidently scorn. Why petition for more extensive curb-side recycling programs, but to do this little bit? Why compost? Why write to your MLA? Why bother with Environmental supplements? Why not work towards effective, far-reaching legislative change the world over, and simultaneously adjust one's lifestyle to hasten it?

It is wise to remember that when you speak of consumers, you also speak of yourselves, and such expression might do well, therefore, not to assume the patronizing tone of lofty rhetoric.

Ken Dobell Arts U3
Rachel Ditor Arts U3

Wrong disruptive elements

To the Daily:

Regarding the item "Bad Junk" in the "Disruptive Elements" column of the October 29 McGill Daily, in which is reported a "chemical" incident that hospitalized four individuals: I cannot see how mescaline, a chrystallin solid (m.p.=35-36°C, or higher if it was the hydrochlorite), can be "cut" with butane and chlorine, which are both gases at room temperature. It can be speculated that, for the latter, the reporters Clarke and King had in mind calcium hypochlorite, a common "chlorinating" compound for swimming pools. Also, it is hard to believe that anybody could have missed the bits of aluminum metal normally mixed in with the sodium hydroxide granules of the reported third cutting adgent, Drano™... or perhaps there's a special "buzz" to being physically dissolved away from the inside, as well as mentally?

Graham D. Darling
Assistant Professor, Chemistry

Here we go again!

To the Daily:

Here we go again! Danny Roth and David Greenspun (Letters October 17th) lambast the Daily and the whole world media for being hostile to poor Israel.

Roth, your sermon to the Daily for failing to live up to the journalistic standards of such media gurus er, prophets as A.M. Rosenthall and William Safire (both of the New York Times) and that incomparable doyen of unbiased journalism, George Will, is pitiable.

Yes, yes, those Palestinians and "Arabs" give little hoot for human life. But Mr. Roth, what do you want the world to do when brainwashed North American kids wander into land of misery, humiliation and dispossession (meaning the Palestinians living under the benign Israeli occupation) and get caught in the crossfire of oppressors and the oppressed. Israel is sure no disneyland, mainline Zionist propaganda not withstanding.

How strange that David Greenspun invokes the Globe & Mail and the new York Times to discredit the Daily. Yet the NYT has exposed the lies woven by the Israeli government and their stooges to cover up what was nothing but a wanton act of revenge by the brave Israeli soldiers on the Haram-Sharif (which the biased western media only calls by its Jewish name).

What a shame that even Uncle Sam joined this time with the rest of the evil world to call spade a spade, i.e. Israel is a racist state which has no regard for non-Jewish life. It is absurd to argue that the Palestinians were provoked into throwing stones by mere rumours. There is documented evidence to prove that militant Zionists and Christian Evangelicals are busy drawing up plans for building the Third Temple where the Al-Aksa mosque currently stands. Grace Halsell in her book "Prophecy and Politics" and Robert Friedman in a recent article "Making way for the messiah" provide graphic accounts of how the Second Coming of Jesus can be speeded up.

Lastly, since Israel captured the city of Jerusalem there have been several attempts to burn or blow up the Mosque. The Israeli rulers have ruthlessly followed de-Arabisation of the city. The latest good news is that as a way to snub America, the bankroller of political Zionism, Shamir and his gang have decided to settle more Russian Jews in the Arab sector of Jerusalem. This will be made possible by the largesse of US Congress wich has granted an additional $400 million, over and above the annual $3 billion-plus 'gift to Israeli hotheads. And Roth and Greenspun complain about anti-Israeli bias of the western media. They do not even understand what is bias. For a good forty years, Israel has enjoyed a monopoly over truth. If some time a glimmer of darkness seeps in, why do you care, Messrs Roth and Greenspun! The US dollars and guns keep pouring into Israel. What one vote against the Israeli atrocities will change!

Ibne All Abidl
Continuing Education

ERRATUM

The photo of Nick Auf de Maur which appeared on page 5 of the Municipal Election Issue (Thursday, November 1) was unfortunately not credited. Lara de Saliberry shot that one. Sorry, Lara.

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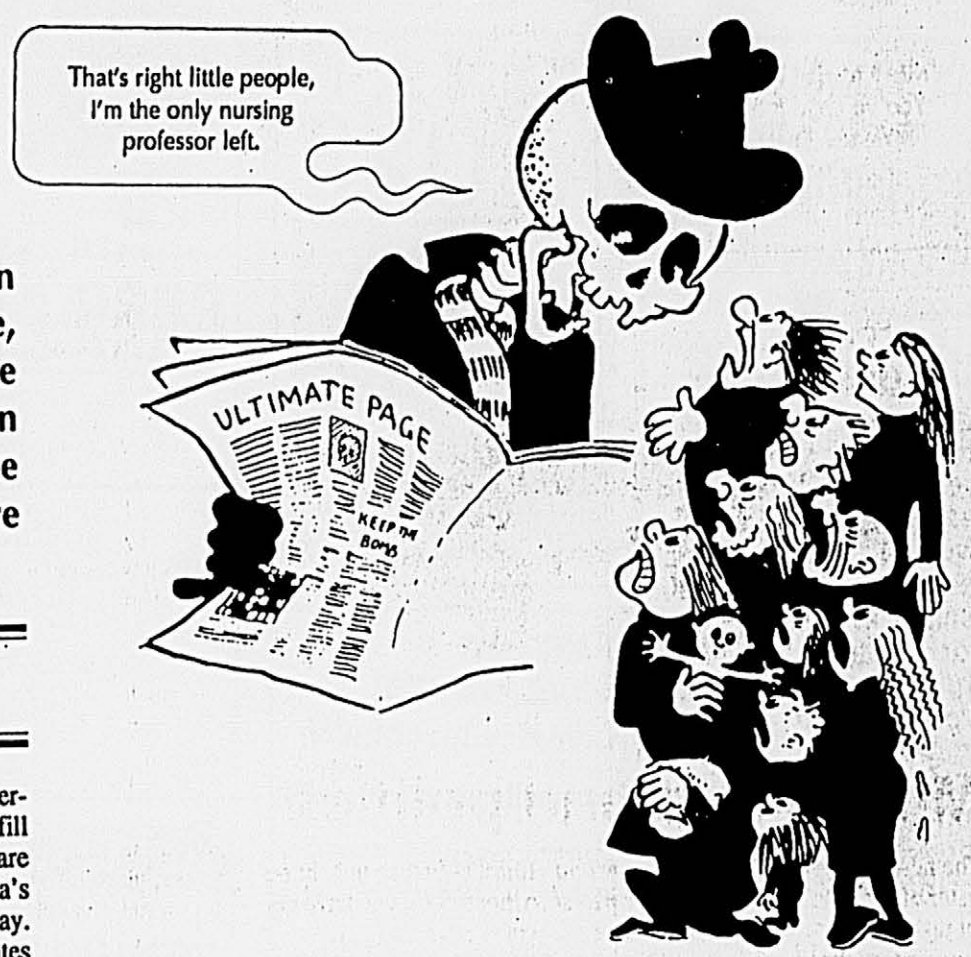
Canadian Universities down to bare bones

Canadian universities used to be preoccupied with brain drain: professors fleeing to the States for greater prestige, higher salaries and more research money. These days the educational community is consumed by a new concept: brain death. Fully one-third of Canada's faculty positions will be vacant by the year 2000, and academics are worried there won't be enough qualified replacements.



BY KAREN HILL
(CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS)

As an aging faculty approaches retirement, educators are saying there simply aren't enough qualified staff to fill the vacant jobs. Death and jobs abroad are also snatching up Canada's brightest minds. And on top of all of that, dramatic increases in enrolment are predicted for the latter half of the decade, creating a demand for more teachers, not just replacements.

"We've got a situation where eight to ten years ago, the student to faculty ratio was 15 to one," says Bob Kanduth, communications director for the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA). "Now the comparable figure is 20 to one. There is an immediate need for more faculty to bring it back up to former levels."

Student enrolment is the variable that took most people by surprise. Because the number of people 18 to 24 is declining, planners expected enrolment to take a comparable dive.

But with the job market becoming more competitive, students are flocking to universities, to get the degree that will make them more attractive to employers, and to forestall entering the bloodthirsty marketplace.

In 1978–79, there were 367 780 full time students in Canada and 32 645 full time professors. But ten years later, the number of full time students grew to 499 359 working with only 36 301 full time university teachers.

Educators predict the problems will accelerate by the late 1990s and – if current hiring practices continue – the student to professor ratio will continue to grow. In the last 10 years, the number of students has increased by 30 per cent, while the number of professors has grown by only 10 per cent.

By 1997, there will be approximately four candidates for every five jobs if staffing remains at current levels, according to an OCUFA report. And that could force universities to cap enrolment, or even close up shop altogether.

The money to create additional jobs isn't on its way. Base funding from both federal and provincial governments has been in a steady decline since the late 1970s, effectively halting the creation of new faculty positions. It is also keeping salaries low at a time when both the private sector and government can offer higher wages and better benefits.

"Universities are not the nirvana they once were," says Robert Davidson, a policy analyst at the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. And that's making it difficult for schools to attract and retain professors. Higher salaries and superior research support in the private sector and at American schools are making Canadian faculty positions decidedly lackluster.

During the boom years, Canadian universities hired professors from the U.S. to fill positions. But now American universities are facing a similar shortage, hindering Canada's chances to lure teachers and researchers away. Not only that, schools from the United States may start to recruit more aggressively in Canada, as they have in Britain.

"We have a sister country with a system ten times greater than ours," says Paul Davenport, University of Alberta president. "Canada may become a net exporter of PhDs."

Arthur May, president of Memorial University in Newfoundland and former president of the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council, agrees.

"When the competition starts, we're going to lose. In the last two years, the winners of Nobel prizes were Canadians working in the States."

Although academic forecasters are predicting serious problems at the turn of the century, some faculties have already hit a crisis point. Business administration, engineering, computer science and nursing are all facing a shortage of qualified instructors.

"There's a problem now, not in ten years," says Robert Leger, a lobbyist for the Canadian Association of University Teachers. And "if in those fields the need remains the same, and we don't produce enough PhDs, we have a problem."

But these faculties are not the only ones in trouble. In 1986–87, about 22 per cent of engineering faculty were over the age of 55, while the number was slightly higher for the humanities, Leger says. Coupled with the fact that the number of humanity degrees awarded since 1970 hasn't risen dramatically, the demographics suggest the humanities are in for a rough time.

"It looks as if the humanities will be hardest hit because there has not been enough hiring – not enough new blood coming in," Leger says. While figures for the humanities have remained fairly static, enrolment in the social sciences has grown by leaps and bounds in the last 20 years.

All is not lost, he adds. He is careful to emphasize that these gloomy predictions are based on the current funding trends. If government policy suddenly changes, the whole forecast could be altered.

"I'm not predicting a problem. It all depends on whether we do something or not. We are not doomed. To predict the end of the world would be foolish," Leger says.

"I don't think anybody has a grasp of what could happen with the student population in the next 20 years."

Whatever the exact results, different regions will have unique problems. According to OCUFA, Ontario is going to suffer the most. One-third of all full time Canadian faculty teach and conduct research in the province.

Examined from another perspective, the nation's smallest province could be worst off. "PEI might be the hardest hit," says Leger. "If you lose too many teachers, they are going to suffer more because they have only one university."

And Davenport says it is impossible for any region to avoid damage unless there is a massive change in funding. "There's no way any region can insulate itself.

"The one exception may be French language schools," he says, but even these face a threat. Future francophone faculty will most likely speak English, making them marketable to anglophone schools throughout North America.

Jacques L'Ecuyer, the vice-president of academics at the Universite du Québec, disagrees. He says francophone schools in Québec have a large pool of talent from which to draw. Cultural factors play a role in keeping professors in the province, he adds.

"The problem is not as acute as we thought it would be," he says. "Québec tends to be able to keep its well-educated professors. French Canadians tend to stay within their own communities. If you decide to quit Québec for another university you have to decide whether you want to live in an English environment."

Ontario, because of the concentration of academia there, already has made some steps in trying to correct the problem. In 1985, after much urging by OCUFA, the province implemented a Faculty Renewal Fund. This pool of money was supposed to create 500 new, tenure-stream positions over a five year period.

According to Kanduth, though, the plan only "renewed" by replacement, rather than creating new positions. He says universities are probably doing "a lot of creative bookkeeping" and diverting the money to capital expenditures, rather than creating new positions.

"We had originally planned for it to create new positions, but they (universities) tended to use the money to bring female faculty into tenure-stream positions," he says. Now, OCUFA is pushing for a "faculty growth fund" which will actually create new faculty jobs, he adds.

And not only are these new positions likely to remain the stuff of dreams, existing faculty is going to remain dominated by white men. Women compose only 17.5 per cent of faculty, according to a 1987 Statistics Canada study.

And doctoral programs are going to continue to be the domain of white males unless changes are made, says David Trotman, former Race and Ethnic Relations Officer at York University. Traditionally, bleak prospects for jobs have kept women and people of colour from pursuing a PhD, he says.

In addition, says Trotman, "programs are too traditional. There are new kinds of academic concerns that are given short shrift.

"We need to rethink the content, and the way the content is presented" so that it isn't from an exclusively white, Western perspective, he adds.

But, that is long-term planning, and immediate action is necessary. Trotman says bridging programs have to be developed, recruitment must be aggressive and special scholarships tailored to attract under-represented groups.

All regions share the need for immediate action. Academics across the country agree steps have to be taken now in order to avert a crisis farther down the line. But in light of the funding cuts to post-secondary education under the federal Tories, it doesn't seem like any money is going to be channeled toward the creation of new positions.

In general, a number of measures need to be implemented to avert a widespread shortage, says Davenport. "We need to increase funding for doctoral students from federal and provincial grant programs. There's very little being done on this right now."

May echoes this view. He advocates increasing resources for PhDs and attracting more high school students, particularly women, to science and engineering.

"Before we say we should do this, we should do that, there should be a little more study," says Leger. "This good work that is being started should continue." And, he adds, experts in demographics and education need to come up with a blueprint for change.

Educators all agree: the prognosis appears bleak, but disaster isn't inevitable. Most believe it's a question of commitment by both level of government to post-secondary education. As Davenport says, "The big issue is public policy: what kind of political will do we have?"

Mary Margaret Jones.
You've read the letter.
Now see the picture.
Page 3.

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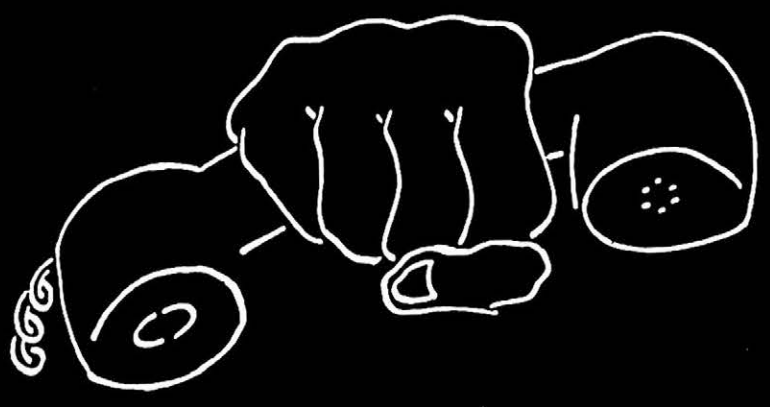

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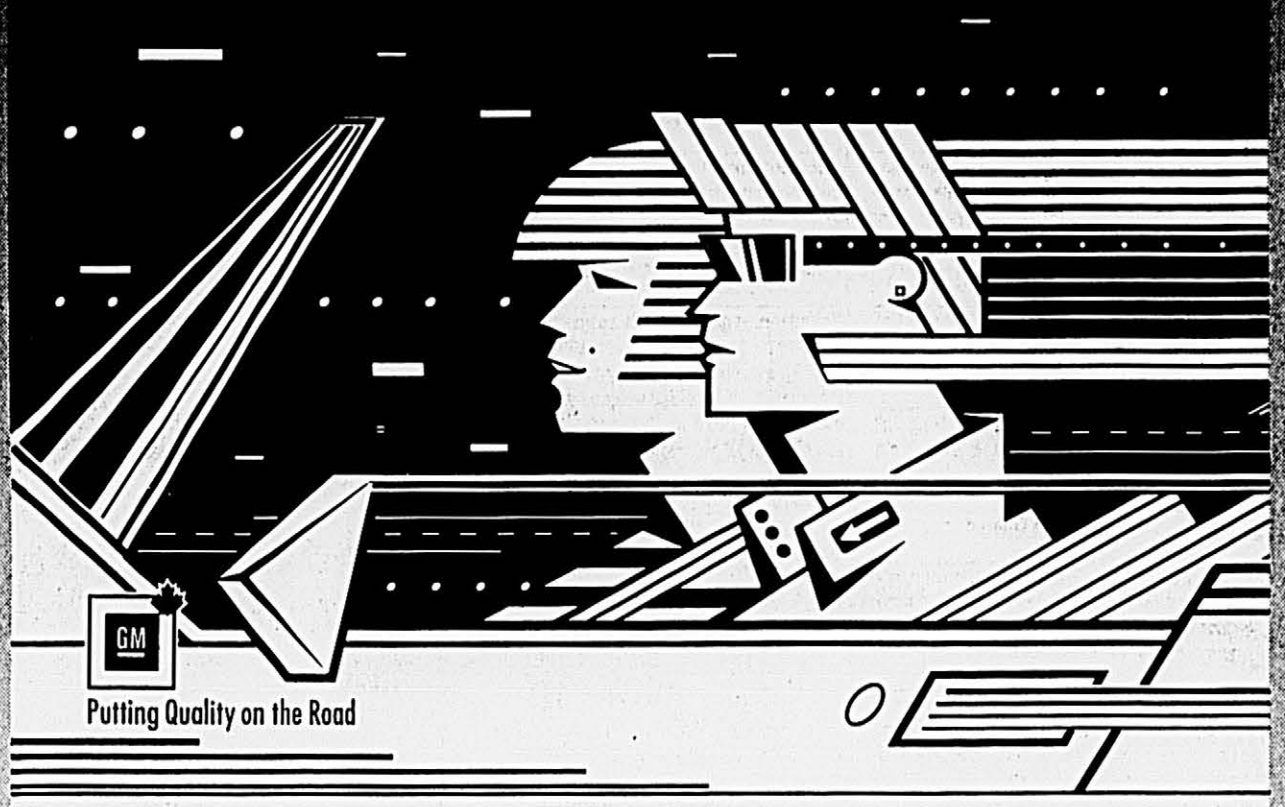

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